

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 06/07/2011 has been entered.

2. This office action is in response to amendments and arguments received on 04/22/2011. Claims 1 and 14 have been amended. Claims 6, 10-13, and 19 have been previously cancelled, and No Claims have been added.

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 14-18 and 20-26 are now pending.

Election/Restrictions

3. Applicant's election without traverse of species A1 in the reply filed on 04/15/2009 is acknowledged.

4. Claims 4-5 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 04/15/2009.

5. Newly submitted claims **17-18** directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: claims 17 and 18 are related to species A3 and A4 which were not elected before

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 17-18 withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments, see Applicant arguments and remarks pages 9-10 filed 10/27/2010, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-3, 6-9, 14-16, and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hamada et al US 2003/0195700 A1 (hence Hamada) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Hamada and Daizen US 2004/0201501 A1 (hence Daizen). The rejection is detailed below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

9. Claims 1-3, 7-9, 14-16, and 20-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamada in view of Daizen.

10. In re claim 1, Hamada discloses the claimed invention including:

- a map data acquiring unit configured to acquire map data including road data, intersection information, and facility information (Fig.1, #6 and Fig.2, Abstract and Paragraphs 0012, 0013, 0065, and Fig.16)
- a current position detecting unit configured to detect a current position of a car (Fig.1, #2 and Paragraph 0063)
- a route searching unit configured to search for a route to a destination based on the map data acquired by said map data acquiring unit (Fig.1 and “GPS System”, Paragraphs 0004, 0027, and claim 11)
- an intersection searching unit configured to search intersections in a vicinity of the current position from among intersections which exist on the route

between the current position and the destination (Abstract, Paragraphs 0012, Fig.10 and Paragraph 0013, Fig.3, #S203)

- an intersection name outputting unit configured to output intersection names which identify the intersections searched by said intersection searching unit (Fig.1, #7), in order to allow a user to designate at least one of the intersection names (Paragraph 0012 “a reference intersection selection section”)
- an intersection selecting unit for selecting configured to select an intersection by specifying an intersection name designated by the user (Paragraph 0012 “a reference intersection selection section”, Fig.1, #1, and Paragraph 0075)
- a facility searching unit for searching configured to search for facilities which exist in a vicinity of the intersection selected by said intersection selecting unit through the map data acquired by said map data acquiring unit after said intersection selecting unit selects the intersection (Fig.3, #S204 and Paragraph 0083)
- a facility category outputting unit for outputting configured to output facility names which identify the facilities searched by said facility searching unit (Fig.1, #7, and Paragraph 0068)

11. However, Hamada doesn't explicitly disclose the following:

- a display unit configured to display, in order of the route, some of the intersection names, which are outputted by the intersection name outputting unit in order to allow a user to designate at least one of the intersection

names, on a part of a screen and simultaneously display a map for route guidance on another part of the screen (Hamada teaches displaying information and in order on a part of a screen and a map for displaying route guidance on another part of a screen as in Fig.22 and Paragraph 0007 and the order comes in a form of increasing distance to each facility, but Hamada doesn't explicitly teach intersection names)

12. Nevertheless, Daizen discloses an Intersection search apparatus and intersection search method and teaches the following:

- a display unit configured to display, in order of the route, some of the intersection names, which are outputted by the intersection name outputting unit in order to allow a user to designate at least one of the intersection names, on a part of a screen and simultaneously display a map for route guidance on another part of the screen (Fig.4, "three forked road", Paragraph 0024, Paragraph 0029 and Fig. 9)

13. Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the Hamada reference with the display as taught by Daizen, in order to display road information in a manner described by a user according to his own preferences.

All the claimed elements were known in the prior art and one skilled in the art could have combined the elements as claimed by known methods with no change in their respective functions, and the combination would have yielded predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

14. In re claim 14, the combination of Hamada and Daizen discloses the claimed invention as discussed above where an intersection is treated as a specific type of a connecting road which the applicant has defined as a road which meets or crosses.

15. In re claims 2 and 15, Hamada discloses the claimed invention including:

- said apparatus includes a facility searching condition setting unit configured to set facility searching conditions for specifying facilities which are a target to be searched (Paragraph 0104, and Fig.10), and the facility searching unit searches for facilities which exist in a vicinity of the intersection selected by the intersection selecting unit from the map data acquired by said map data acquiring unit according to the facility searching conditions set by said facility searching condition setting unit (Fig.10, and Abstract, Lines 8-11)

16. In re claims 3 and 16, Hamada discloses the claimed invention including:

- wherein the facility searching conditions set by the searching condition setting unit include a distance from the intersection selected by the intersection selecting unit or a traveling time required to travel from the intersection (Paragraph 0018)

17. In re claims 7 and 20, Hamada discloses the claimed invention including:

- said apparatus has an intersection searching condition setting unit configured to set intersection search conditions for specifying intersections which are a target to be searched, and the intersection searching unit searches for intersections in a vicinity of the current position from among intersections which exists on the route between the current position and the destination

according to the intersection searching conditions set by said intersection searching condition setting unit (Paragraph 0015)

18. In re claims 8 and 21, Hamada discloses the claimed invention including:
 - said apparatus includes an angle sensor configured to detect a traveling direction of the car (Fig.1, #2, and Paragraph 0063), and an expected-route-to-be-followed determining unit configured to determine an expected route to be followed by the car in case that the destination is not designated, based on the traveling direction detected by said angle sensor and the map data acquired by the map data acquiring unit, and the intersection searching unit searches for intersections in a vicinity of the current position through intersections which exist on the expected route to be followed determined by said expected-route-to-be-followed determining unit when no route is searched for by the route searching unit (Paragraph 0026-0031, 0071, Fig.13)
19. In re claims 9 and 22, Hamada discloses the claimed invention including:
 - a facility selecting unit configured to select a facility by specifying a facility name outputted by said facility name outputting unit; and a facility information outputting unit configured to extract facility information about the facility selected by said facility selecting unit from the map data acquired by said map data acquiring unit, and for outputting the facility information (Paragraph 0073, Fig.10 and Paragraph 0104)
20. In re claims 23 and 24, Hamada discloses the claimed invention including:

- the display unit updates the intersection names to display when the current position passed through the nearest connecting road or when the current position has strayed from the route and a re-determination of the route is carried out (Fig.2, closed loop and Paragraph 0103)

21. In re claims 25 and 26, Hamada discloses the claimed invention including:

- the intersection selecting unit and the facility selecting unit are provided with a key, a remote controller, a touch panel, or a voice recognition device for specifying an intersection name outputted by the intersection name outputting unit and a facility name outputted by the facility name outputting unit (Paragraph 0062 and 0068)

Response to Arguments

22. Applicant's arguments filed 04/22/2011 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

23. With respect to applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 14 that neither Hamada nor Daizen disclose or suggest a display unit configured to display, in order of the route, some of the intersection/connecting road names for selection by a user, on a part of a screen and simultaneously display a map for route guidance on another part of the screen, or a facility searching unit configured to search for facilities which exist in a vicinity of the intersection/connecting road designated by the user as claimed, the examiner respectfully disagrees with that statement, as discussed above with respect to claim 1, Daizen gives the option of searching by "three forked road", as part of the

genre as in Fig.4, “three forked road”, Paragraph 0024, Paragraph 0029 and Fig. 9, and that in the examiner's opinion reads on the limitation of the claim.

Conclusion

24. This is a continuation of applicant's earlier Application No. 10/576,087. All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the earlier application and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the earlier application. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action in this case. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no, however, event will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RAMI KHATIB whose telephone number is (571)270-1165. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday/8:00am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Keith can be reached on (571) 272-6878. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/R. K./
Examiner, Art Unit 3663

/Hussein Elchanti/
Primary Patent Examiner